

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect Anchorage

IN ANCHORAGE: HOUSE BUDGET ELIMINATES TROOPERS, CUTS CHILD PROTECTION, MAKES ROAD MAINTENANCE WORSE

The budget passed by the House majority will have a very noticeable impact on services to the public. Most of the areas targeted for cuts were specified by the House budget subcommittees. Since these cuts come after several years of cuts to administrative support, they necessarily eat into direct "on the street" services. These aren't "Washington Monument" cuts – even with further administrative cutbacks identified by departments, the House budget levels can't be reached without visible cuts to public services. Some examples of how these cuts would affect Anchorage are listed below.

For full impacts of cuts, see

<http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **Reduced snow clearing and road repairs.** The annual contracted snow hauling cost in the Anchorage Bowl averages approximately \$600,000. The cost of one complete snow haul is approximately \$100,000. Cuts of \$200,000 will eliminate the equivalent of two complete snow hauls per year and establish a firm annual cap of \$400,000 on snow hauling. The routes that will be primarily affected are Dimond Blvd, Muldoon/Tudor Road, Northern Lights, Benson Blvd, Fireweed Lane, Gambell/Ingra, and A-C couplet among others. There will also be less pothole repair and reduced maintenance of guard rails and street lights.
- **State troopers eliminated.** Failure to fund the third year of negotiated labor contracts will eliminate three troopers investigating fraud, embezzlement and computer related crimes. In addition, three support staff who process sex offender registration data and one court services officer will have to be eliminated.
- **Prosecutors, child protection lawyers laid off.** Since many of the Criminal Division's 14 district attorney offices are staffed by just one or two attorneys, the \$250,000 reduction will need to be taken in the Anchorage and Fairbanks offices. In Anchorage, two attorneys who currently provide legal advice regarding the state's natural resources will be cut. In addition, elimination of funding for the "Balloon Project" which moves children from foster care to permanent homes will force layoffs of two Anchorage child protection attorneys.
- **Delayed oil and gas permitting.** Failure to fund the \$222,600 Oil Safety & Development Initiative in the Department of Natural Resources will cause permitting delays on the North Slope and in the Cook Inlet area.
- **Fire prevention set back.** Failure to fund \$500,000 for the Oil Safety and Development Initiative will result in not hiring three Deputy Fire Marshals for oversight of oil field fire and life safety issues and approval of plan reviews for oil and gas development in Cook Inlet and Kenai.
- **Avalanche warning system ignored.** Failure to fund \$750,000 for the Avalanche Warning System initiative may increase the number of avalanche-related deaths as more Alaskans access the backcountry without proper training or warnings.

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- **Reduced Fish and Wildlife patrols.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will reduce patrols of Upper Cook Inlet, Ship Creek and the Anchorage watershed during peak sport and commercial fisheries.
- **School fire prevention worsened.** The combination of failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract and the cut of \$300,000 general funds will require closing the Anchorage Fire Service Training Office and eliminating a Fire Training Specialist. One Deputy Fire Marshal who does fire safety inspections of schools, community halls and places of public assembly in Chugiak, Eagle River and Girdwood will also have to be eliminated, which also increases the average time for small building plan reviews statewide.
- **Halfway house prisoners released into communities.** The unallocated reduction to Corrections will result in the loss of up to 209 community residential center (CRC or "half-way house") beds in Anchorage. All of the existing Anchorage CRC population of sentenced misdemeanants and offenders will have to be placed on furlough in programs such as electronic monitoring.
- **Longer wait at Motor Vehicles.** Because Anchorage has four DMV offices (including Eagle River), the downtown Anchorage office will likely be consolidated with the midtown and Benson Street offices to minimize the impact on waiting times for Anchorage customers. The unallocated reduction will also mean reducing staff, significantly increasing wait times at DMV offices for all types of services. These service reductions can only be made in the larger offices with several staff.
- **Child protection lessened.** Lay off of social workers in Anchorage will increase caseloads that are already higher than the national standard. The elimination of the Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project) also cuts social workers, causing increased caseloads for remaining workers and keeping children in foster care longer than allowed by state and federal laws. Since operations at the Mat-Su Youth Facility will be reduced, juvenile offenders from the Valley may cause overcrowding at McLaughlin Youth Facility.
- **Mental illness and disability services cut back.** Reduction of Alaska Psychiatric Institute beds by 14% will leave some Anchorage residents who have mental illness unable to get treatment which could jeopardize both them and public safety. Cuts to people with developmental disabilities will leave children and adults on the waitlist for longer periods. The Human Service Community Matching Grant program could be eliminated.
- **Popular parks closed.** Parks used by residents in Mat-Su and Kenai will be closed because the House cut \$1 million below the current \$5.5 million statewide Parks budget. This will force the closure of the following parks: Finger Lake, Kepler Bradley, King Mountain, Long Lake, Mat-Su Glacier, Big Lake North, Big Lake South, Rocky Lake, Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine, and Summit Lake. (The most heavily used parks will remain open, such as Denali State Park, Willow Creek, and Nancy lakes.) Kenai parks to be closed are: Captain Cook, Kasilof River, Johnson Lake, Clam Gulch, Anchor River, Stariski Creek. (The most heavily used parks will remain open, such as Kenai River, Kachemak Bay, Deep Creek, Ninilchik, and Crooked Creek.)

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IN ANCHORAGE: IMPACTS OF THE SENATE BUDGET

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **Prosecutors, child protection lawyers laid off.** Since many of the 14 district attorney offices have just one or two attorneys, the cuts will need to be taken in the larger offices. In Anchorage, elimination of funding for the “Balloon Project” which moves children from foster care to permanent homes will force layoffs of at least one child protection attorney. Two other attorneys who provide legal advice regarding the state's natural resources will also have to be cut.
- **School fire prevention worsened:** The failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will require the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease the building inspection frequency of schools and assembly buildings to every two years.
- **State troopers and public safety programs impacted.** Reductions in funding for essential support functions will have a direct impact on troopers and other public safety programs and require cutting up to four positions.
- **Avalanche warning system ignored.** Failure to fund \$750,000 for the Avalanche Warning System initiative may increase the number of avalanche-related deaths as more Alaskans access the backcountry without proper training or warnings.
- **Child protection.** The highly successful Adoption Placement program will lose 1 social worker and 3 attorneys statewide.
- **Alcohol and drug abuse program reduced.** Drastically reduced funding to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs would cut treatment throughout the state.
- **Pioneers' Homes Cut.** The Pioneers' Homes are operating with approximately 90 beds empty because staffing is insufficient to provide the 24-hour care that the people on the waiting list need. All of the Homes have waiting lists of people seeking immediate admission. The proposed cuts will further reduce available beds at the Anchorage Home by 10 – 5 each in the Enhanced Assisted Living unit and the Comprehensive Care Unit.
- **Reduced snow clearing and road repairs.** The annual contracted snow hauling cost in the Anchorage Bowl averages approximately \$600,000. The cost of one complete snow haul is approximately \$100,000. Cuts of \$200,000 will eliminate the equivalent of two complete snow hauls per year and establish a firm annual cap of \$400,000 on snow hauling. The routes that will be primarily affected are Dimond Blvd, Muldoon/Tudor Road, Northern Lights, Benson Blvd, Fireweed Lane, Gambell/Ingra, and A-C couplet among others. There will also be less pothole repair and reduced maintenance of guard rails and street lights.
- **Genetics lab shutdown.** The elimination of state support for the commercial fisheries genetics lab will effectively dismantle the genetics program that supports fisheries management statewide.

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect the Kenai

ON THE KENAI: HOUSE BUDGET ELIMINATES TROOPERS, CUTS CHILD PROTECTION, CLOSES PARKS MAKES ROAD MAINTENANCE WORSE, ELIMINATES FOOD HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The budget passed by the House majority will have a very noticeable impact on services to the public. Most of the areas targeted for cuts were specified by the House budget subcommittees. Since these cuts come after several years of cuts to administrative support, they necessarily eat into direct "on the street" services. These aren't "Washington Monument" cuts – even with further administrative cutbacks identified by departments, the House budget levels can't be reached without visible cuts to public services. Some examples of how these cuts would affect the Kenai are listed below.

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **State troopers, court officers eliminated.** Failure to fund the third year of negotiated labor contract will require cutting three troopers, 1 court services officer and 1 support staff, reducing 24-hour coverage in some areas of the Peninsula.
- **Food inspections stopped.** The House eliminates all state oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, and public pools and accommodations. There is no local program in place to assume this role, so there will be absolutely no health inspections for more than 1,300 Kenai Peninsula restaurants, public facilities and school kitchens. This cut directly jeopardizes millions of federal dollars that pay for school and child/adult care meals.
- **Child protection worsened.** Elimination of the highly successful Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project) cuts social workers, causing increased caseloads for remaining workers and keeping children in foster care longer than allowed by state and federal laws. Failure to fund expansion of the Early Intervention for Family Support program to Kenai will result in legitimate reports of harm on low risk cases not being investigated.
- **Development permits slowed.** Failure to fund an additional permitter at the Kenai River Center will prevent adequate response to the explosive growth in permit applications in the lower Kenai Peninsula.
- **Several popular Kenai area parks closed.** The House cut \$1 million below the current \$5.5 million statewide Parks budget. This will force the closure of the following parks: Captain Cook, Kasilof River, Johnson Lake, Clam Gulch, Anchor River, Stariski Creek. (The most heavily used parks will remain open, such as Kenai River, Kachemak Bay, Deep Creek, Ninilchik, and Crooked Creek.) Since Alaskans represent 80% of the 4 million annual parks visits, there will be a great impact to

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Alaskans as well as tourists. The House denied the Governor's \$700,000 request to improve routine maintenance to assure visitor safety and boost visitation that would also increase state revenues from parks fees.

- **Timber harvesting slowed.** The \$500,000 House budget cut will reduce the statewide timber sale program by 28% which will mainly impact the Interior and Southcentral Alaska. This reduction will lessen our ability to break up uniform areas of older timber and increase risks of wildfire, insects, and disease near communities.
- **Road maintenance cut.** The Ninilchik Maintenance Station on the Sterling Highway will be virtually closed. All equipment will be turned in with the exception of one loader to access the sand pile. Four equipment operators will be laid off. Service to this area will be delayed until the Homer and Soldotna station equipment operators can get to this location. The Canyon Creek vault toilets will be closed during the winter. The three new vault toilets and dumpster facilities at Canyon Creek on the Seward Highway near the Hope Cutoff are currently used by travelers year round.
- **Small airport maintenance eliminated.** Maintenance will be eliminated at airports adjacent to highways, including Kasilof and Ninilchik.
- **Fish and Wildlife protection cut.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will result in cutting 2 seasonal Fish and Wildlife Aides in Homer and Seward. This will greatly reduce efficiency, productivity and visibility of more highly trained troopers. Time spent handling the aides' duties will lessen time available for patrols of Cook Inlet, Kenai River, Russian River and other heavily used Kenai area watersheds during peak sport and commercial fisheries.

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ON THE KENAI: IMPACTS OF THE SENATE BUDGET

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **Development permits slowed.** Failure to fund an additional permitter at the Kenai River Center will prevent adequate response to the explosive growth in permit applications in the lower Kenai Peninsula.
- **School fire prevention worsened.** The failure to fund the Year 3 labor contracts will require the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease the building inspection frequency of schools and assembly buildings to every two years.
- **Child protection.** The highly successful Adoption Placement Program will lose 1 social worker and 3 attorneys statewide. Failure to fund expansion of the Early Intervention for Family Support program to Kenai will result in legitimate reports of harm on low risk cases not being investigated.
- **Alcohol and drug abuse program reduced.** Drastically reduced funding to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs would cut treatment throughout the state.
- **Road maintenance cut.** The Senate budget singles out North Kenai Maintenance Station as a preferential area over 83 maintenance stations statewide which is unfair to the rest of the state. However, material orders (sand, gravel etc) for the North Kenai maintenance station will be reduced which will result in a reduced level of winter road maintenance. The Canyon Creek vault toilets will be closed during the winter. The three new vault toilets and dumpster facilities at Canyon Creek on the Seward highway near the Hope Cutoff are currently used by travelers year round.
- **Small airport maintenance eliminated.** Maintenance will be eliminated at airports adjacent to highways, including Kasilof and Ninilchik.

How Legislative Majority Budget Cuts Will Affect the Mat-Su Area

IN MAT-SU: HOUSE BUDGET ELIMINATES TROOPERS, CUTS CHILD PROTECTION, CLOSES PARKS, MAKES ROAD MAINTENANCE WORSE, ELIMINATES FOOD HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The budget passed by the House majority will have a very noticeable impact on services to the public. Most of the areas targeted for cuts were specified by the House budget subcommittees. Since these cuts come after several years of cuts to administrative support, they necessarily eat into direct “on the street” services. These aren’t “Washington Monument” cuts – even with further administrative cutbacks identified by departments, the House budget levels can’t be reached without visible cuts to public services. Some examples of how these cuts would affect the Mat-Su are listed below.

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **Food inspections cut out.** Eliminates all state oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, and public pools and accommodations. There is no Mat-Su program in place to assume this role, so there will be absolutely no health inspections for the nearly 900 Mat-Su Borough and 160 Denali Borough restaurants, public facilities, and school kitchens. This cut also directly jeopardizes millions of federal dollars that pay for school and child/adult care meals.
- **Troopers, court officers cut.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will eliminate four troopers and one court services office in Palmer and one trooper in Talkeetna as well as reduce support staff. (same as house)
- **Child protection worsened.** Lay offs of social workers in Palmer will increase caseloads that are already high. The Children’s Place project in the Mat-Su area for investigation of legitimate reports of harm on low risk cases will be eliminated, resulting in those cases not being investigated. Operations at the Mat-Su Youth Facility will be reduced. The 6 remaining staff will implement a community detention program and explore the option of operating an emergency, on-call detention program on the weekends. Juveniles transported to Anchorage may cause overcrowding at McLaughlin Youth Facility. Closure of the Mat-Su Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) will mean over 600 cases cannot be handled.
- **Popular Mat-Su parks closed.** The House cut \$1 million below the current \$5.5 million statewide Parks budget. This will force the closure of the following parks: Finger Lake, Kepler Bradley, King Mountain, Long Lake, Mat-Su Glacier, Big Lake North, Big Lake South, Rocky Lake, Hatcher Pass, Independence Mine, and Summit Lake. (The most heavily used parks will remain open, such as Denali State Park, Willow Creek, and Nancy lakes.) Since Alaskans represent 80% of the 4 million annual parks visits, there will be a great impact to Alaskans as well as tourists. The House also denied the Governor’s \$700,000 increment to improve routine park maintenance to assure visitor safety and boost visitation.

How Legislative Majority Budget Cuts Will Affect the Mat-Su Area

- **Road maintenance gets worse, Willow station closed.** The Willow maintenance station will be closed. Four equipment operators will be laid off. During the winter, commercial truck traffic and the motoring public will see slower response times for snow removal and ice control. Residents of Palmer, Willow and Chulitna will have to wait approximately 24 to 48 hours longer after snowstorms until areas are plowed.
- **Timber harvesting slowed.** The \$500,000 budget cut reduces the statewide timber sale program by 28%, mainly impacting interior and Southcentral Alaska. This reduction will lessen our ability to break up uniform areas of older timber and increase risks of wildfire, insects, and disease near communities
- **Longer lines at Motor Vehicles.** The budget cut will require reducing staff, significantly increasing wait times at DMV offices for all types of services. Staff can only be cut in larger offices with several staff such as the Mat-Su.
- **Alcantra National Guard Armory closed.** The \$250,000 House cut will require the closure of the Alcantra Armory and relocation of those activities to the Fort Richardson facilities. No other facility in the state has a nearby alternate facility.
- **Mt. McKinley Meats facility closed.** The unallocated reduction will force the closure of the Mt. McKinley Meats Program in Palmer and cut 3 oversight staff. Elimination of the only meat processing plant in the Mat-Su Valley will impact all Alaska livestock producers. Inmates working at this Alaska Correctional Industries program will be reassigned to other institutional work programs at Palmer Correctional Center.
- **Fish and Wildlife protection cut.** Failure to fund the year 3 labor contract will result in reduction of two seasonal Fish and Wildlife Aides in the Mat-Su Valley. This will result in much reduced efficiency, productivity and visibility of more highly trained troopers who will be required to carry out the aides' work. Time spent doing the aides' duties will lessen time available for patrols of Big Lake, Deshka River, Willow Creek, Lake Creek and other heavily used Matanuska-Susitna Peninsula watersheds during peak sport and commercial fisheries. (Same as house)
- **Small airport maintenance eliminated.** There will be no summer or winter maintenance at airports adjacent to highways including Goose Bay and Sheep Mountain. Medical evacuation flights will be limited to helicopters only. Lighting at Skwenta Airport will be shut off, closing the airport to all flights after dark.
- **Habitat permitting and protection worsened.** Failure to fund \$202,005 for a habitat permitting and restoration center similar to the one currently operating on the Kenai River will slow down improvements in the Mat Su. Local technical assistance would streamline the permitting process, develop funding for and public confidence in habitat restoration techniques, and improve landowners' willingness to prevent damage and restore stream banks and fish habitat.

How Legislative Majority Budget Cuts Will Affect the Mat-Su Area

IN MAT-SU: SENATE BUDGET CUT IMPACTS

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- **Trooper cut.** Reductions in funding for critical support functions will have a direct impact on troopers and will require that at least one field position in the Palmer post be reassigned to perform administrative tasks or that one field position be deleted.
- **Habitat permitting and protection worsened.** Failure to fund \$202,500 for a habitat permitting and restoration center similar to the one currently operating on the Kenai River will slow down improvements in the Mat Su. Local technical assistance would streamline the permitting process, develop funding for and public confidence in habitat restoration techniques, and improve landowners' willingness to prevent damage and restore stream banks and fish habitat.
- **School fire prevention worsened.** The failure to fund the Year 3 labor contracts will require the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease the building inspection frequency of schools and assembly buildings to every two years.
- **Child protection.** The highly successful Adoption Placement Program will lose 1 social worker and 3 attorneys statewide.
- **Alcohol and drug abuse program reduced.** Drastically reduced funding to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs would cut treatment throughout the state.
- **Pioneers' Homes.** The Pioneers' Homes are currently operating with approximately 90 beds empty because staffing is insufficient to provide the 24-hour care that the people on the Pioneers' Home waiting list need. All of the Homes have waiting lists of people seeking immediate admission. The Palmer Pioneers' Home has also had approximately 6 beds off-line due to remodeling. These were intended to be staffed for enhanced assisted living (24- hour oversight) in April, 2002. Due to the need to allocate a portion of the Senate's proposed department unallocated reduction to the Pioneers' Home program, these beds cannot be filled at this time.
- **Road maintenance gets worse.** The Willow maintenance station will be not be closed but year round maintenance will be less because one equipment operator will be laid off and equipment and supplies will be reduced. During the winter, commercial truck traffic and the motoring public will see slower response times for snow removal and ice control. Residents of Palmer, Willow and Chulitna will have to wait approximately 24 to 36 hours longer after snowstorms until areas are plowed.
- **Small airport maintenance eliminated.** There will be no summer or winter maintenance at airports adjacent to highways including Goose Bay and Sheep Mountain. Medical evacuation flights will be limited to helicopters only. Lighting at Skwenta Airport will be shut off, closing the airport to all flights after dark.

How Legislative Majority Budget Cuts Will Affect the Fairbanks-North Pole Area

IN FAIRBANKS-NORTH POLE AREA: HOUSE BUDGET ELIMINATES TROOPERS, CUTS CHILD PROTECTION, CLOSES PARKS MAKES ROAD MAINTENANCE WORSE, ELIMINATES FOOD HEALTH INSPECTIONS

The budget passed by the House majority will have a very noticeable impact on services to the public. Most of the areas targeted for cuts were specified by the House budget subcommittees. Since these cuts come after several years of cuts to administrative support, they necessarily eat into direct “on the street” services. These aren’t “Washington Monument” cuts – even with further administrative cutbacks identified by departments, the House budget levels can’t be reached without visible cuts to public services. Some examples of how these cuts would affect the Fairbanks-North Pole area are listed below.

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **Food inspections eliminated.** Eliminates all state oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, and public pools and accommodations. There is no Fairbanks program in place to assume this role, so there will be absolutely no health inspections for more than 1,000 Fairbanks restaurants, public facilities, and school kitchens. This cut also directly jeopardizes millions of federal dollars for school and child/adult care meals.
- **Popular Interior parks to close.** The House cut \$1 million below the current \$5.5 million statewide Parks budget. This will force the closure of the following parks: Lower Chatanika, Chena Recreation Site, Birch Lake, Harding Lake, Salcha River. (The most heavily used parks will remain open, such as Chena River State Recreation Area. Also the Delta Area parks — Quartz Lake, Clearwater, Rika's Roadhouse, Delta, Fielding Lake, Donelly Creek and three parks in Tok area will remain open.) Since Alaskans represent 80% of the 4 million annual parks visits, there will be a great impact to Alaskans as well as tourists. The House also denied the Governor's \$700,000 increment to improve routine maintenance to assure visitor safety and boost visitation.
- **Troopers, court officers eliminated.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will result in elimination of four troopers, one court services officer and one support staff. This will necessitate programmatic changes to traffic enforcement, DWI patrols, and sex offender compliance enforcement.
- **Prosecutors eliminated.** Since many of the Criminal Division's 14 district attorney offices are staffed by just one or two attorneys, the \$250,000 reduction will need to be taken in the Anchorage and Fairbanks offices. At least three attorney positions could be eliminated. The effect of this reduction will be increasingly difficult as a result of the City of Fairbanks' recent repeal of all of its domestic violence ordinances which shifts the burden and cost of prosecution and incarceration from the city to the state. Cuts in

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the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities may force closure of the old Fairbanks Courthouse which houses the Fairbanks District Attorney's office.

- **Fewer timber offered for harvest.** \$500,000 budget cut passes by the House will reduce the statewide timber sale program by 28% which will have a heavy impact in the Interior. The cuts will decrease the amount of timber offered by 8-9 MMBF per year, and decrease the number of sales offered by 20-22 sales per year. This will reduce timber supply to 12-14 Alaskan timber businesses per year, and counteract efforts to expand the local industry, through recent federal grants for kiln-drying facilities to local operators. Reduced timber harvest will increase the risk of severe wildfires near communities, by lessening our ability to break up uniform areas of older timber that are susceptible to fire, insects, and disease.
- **Lines to lengthen at Motor Vehicles.** The unallocated reduction will be mean reducing staff, significantly increasing wait times at DMV offices for all types of services. Staff reductions can only be made in the larger offices with several staff such as Fairbanks.
- **Children to linger longer in foster care.** Lay off of social workers and elimination of the Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project) will increase child protection caseloads, leaving some children in foster care longer than allowed by state and federal laws. Failure to fund expansion of the Early Intervention for Family Support project to Fairbanks means legitimate reports of harm on low risk cases will not be investigated.
- **Child and senior legal protection cut back.** The Department of Law's Human Services section provides child protection, juvenile delinquency prosecution, mental health legal services, and protection of senior citizens. The Fairbanks section serves a huge geographical area, has an excessive caseload, and is the only location without paralegal support. Denying \$98,700 for paralegal support will further compromise the ability to meet the timelines established in the 1998 child protection law.
- **Fish & Wildlife protection cut.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will result in the elimination of two seasonal Fish and Wildlife aides in Fairbanks and Delta Junction. This will result in much reduced efficiency, productivity and visibility of more highly trained Troopers who will be required to carry out the aides' work. Time spent doing the aides' duties will lessen time available for patrols in the Brooks Range, Alaska Range East and along the Dalton Highway. Moose caribou and Dahl sheep will be less protected.
- **Road Maintenance Cut.** Maintenance will be reduced on most Interior District Highways such as the Parks, Richardson, Elliott and the lower portion of the Dalton Highway south of Coldfoot. Snow removal and ice control operations will experience the largest impacts. There will be an increased response time on all roads.. Fairbanks area lower priority roads will see an increase of 24 to 48 hour response time after each snow event. Pedestrian facilities will also be impacted by the longer response times. Summer maintenance operations such as pothole repair, sign repair, brush control, sweeping, drainage work, and fence repair will also be reduced. Winter maintenance on the Steese Highway from MP 44 to MP120 (Central) will be eliminated. Winter

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maintenance will be performed only locally between Central, Circle Hot Springs and Circle City. This portion of the Steese Highway has been kept open in the winter since the mid-1980's. The communities of Central, Circle Hot Springs and Circle City, all of which have airports, will be affected. Impact will be significant to an area no longer accustomed to providing for heavy winter needs such as fuel. Several businesses in Central will be severely impacted. The Chitina Maintenance Station will be closed. Closure of this station will have a significant impact to the Edgerton highway, Village of Chitina, Kenny Lake School District and the Chitina dipnet fishery.

How Legislative Majority Budget Cuts Will Affect the Fairbanks-North Pole Area

IN FAIRBANKS-NORTH POLE AREA: SENATE BUDGET IMPACTS

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- **Prosecutors eliminated.** Since many of the 14 district attorney offices are staffed by just one or two attorneys, cuts will need to be taken in the larger offices. At least three Fairbanks attorney positions could be eliminated. The impact will be especially difficult as a result of the City of Fairbanks' recent repeal of all of its domestic violence ordinances which shifts the burden and cost of prosecution and incarceration from the city to the state. Cuts in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities may force closure of the old Fairbanks Courthouse which houses the Fairbanks District Attorney's office.
- **School fire prevention worsened.** The failure to fund the Year 3 labor contracts will require the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease the building inspection frequency of schools and assembly buildings to every two years.
- **Trooper eliminated.** Reductions in funding for basic support functions will have a direct impact on troopers and will require that at least one field position in the Fairbanks post be reassigned to perform administrative tasks or charges assessed to the Alaska State Troopers require reduction of one field position in Fairbanks.
- **Child protection.** The highly successful Adoption Placement Program will lose 1 social worker and 3 attorneys statewide.
- **Alcohol and drug abuse program reduced.** Drastically reduced funding to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs would cut treatment throughout the state.
- **Pioneers' Homes Cut.** The Pioneers' Homes are currently operating with approximately 90 beds empty because staffing is insufficient to provide the 24-hour care that the people on the Pioneers' Home waiting list need. All of the Homes have waiting lists of people seeking immediate admission to a Home but ten more beds statewide will have to be cut.
- **Road Maintenance Cut.** Maintenance will be reduced on most Interior District Highways such as the Parks, Richardson, Elliott and the lower portion of the Dalton Highway south of Coldfoot. Snow removal and ice control operations will have the largest impacts. There will be an increased response time on all roads. Fairbanks area lower priority roads will see an increase of 24 to 48 hour response time after each snow event. Pedestrian facilities will also be impacted by the longer response times. Summer maintenance operations such as pothole repair, sign repair, brush control, sweeping, drainage work, and fence repair will also be reduced.

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect Southeast

HOUSE BUDGET ELIMINATES TROOPERS, CUTS CHILD PROTECTION, CLOSES PARKS ELIMINATES FOOD HEALTH INSPECTIONS, MAKES ROAD MAINTENANCE AND FERRY SERVICE WORSE

The budget passed by the House majority will have a very noticeable impact on services to the public. Most of the areas targeted for cuts were specified by the House budget subcommittees. Since these cuts come after several years of cuts to administrative support, they necessarily eat into direct "on the street" services. These aren't "Washington Monument" cuts – even with further administrative cutbacks identified by departments, the House budget levels can't be reached without visible cuts to public services. Some examples of how these cuts would affect Southeast are listed below.

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- **Road maintenance cut back.** Maintenance of selected Category I and II highways will have to significantly reduced. The state will stop maintenance on the Petersburg- H Street and Mitkof Highway; Wrangell- Airport Road, Zimovia Highway and East Road. Winter snow removal and year round maintenance will be discontinued on category III roads including: Petersburg- Crystal Lake Road, Falls Creek Road, Old Mitkof Highway, Papkes Landing, and Scow Bay Loop Road; Ketchikan- Cemetery Road, Cranberry Road, D-2 Loop, Knudson Cove, Knudson Spur, D-1 Loop, North Pt. Higgins, North Pt. Higgins Spur, Old South Tongass, Pond Reef Ext., Pond Reef Circle, Pond Reef Road, Potter Road, Power House, Roosevelt Spur, Shoreline Drive, South Pt. Higgins, South Pt. Higgins Spur, Sunset Drive, Totem Bite, Whipple Creek, White Spur Road, Wood Road.
- **Ferry service cut.** Forty-eight permanent Ketchikan change crew positions on the M/V Aurora will be eliminated. Only the M/V LeConte will serve smaller SE Alaska communities. Kake, Angoon, Tenakee Springs, Hoonah, and Pelican will be without ferry service during October 2002 due to the required LeConte overhaul. AMHS winter service to smaller SE Alaska communities will be reduced November through June. Metlakatla service will be provided by a contract vessel. The M/V Taku will be off line from October through June.
- **Food inspections eliminated.** The House eliminates all state oversight and inspection of restaurants, grocery stores, school kitchens, day care centers, tattoo/body piercing parlors, and public pools and accommodations. There is no Southeast community with a program in place to assume this role, so there will be absolutely no health inspections for more than 1,500 restaurants, public facilities, and school kitchens throughout SE Alaska. This cut also directly jeopardizes millions of federal dollars for school and child/adult care meals.

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect Southeast

- **Child protection to get worse.** Lay offs of social workers in Haines, Wrangell, Petersburg and Sitka field offices will increase caseloads. The elimination of the highly successful Adoption Placement Program (Balloon Project) results in the loss of social worker positions, causing increased caseloads for remaining workers and keeping children in foster care longer than allowed by state and federal laws.
- **Popular Southeast parks to close.** The House cut \$1 million below the current \$5.5 million statewide Parks budget. This will force the closure of the following parks: Settler's Cove, Refuge Cove, and Grindall Island in Ketchikan and Old Sitka, Castle Hill, & Halibut Point in Sitka. (Parks in Haines and Juneau will remain open because they are more heavily used.) Since Alaskans represent 80% of the 4 million annual parks visits, there will be a great impact to Alaskans as well as tourists. In addition to the budget cut, the House denied the Governor's \$700,000 increment to improve routine maintenance to assure visitor safety and boost visitation, that would also increase state revenues from parks fees.
- **Troopers, court officers eliminated.** Failure to fund Year 3 labor contract will eliminate one trooper in Ketchikan, one court services officer in Juneau and one trooper instructor at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka.
- **Timber available for harvest reduced.** The cuts will reduce timber available to local businesses by shifting some state sales from value-added sales to export sales to raise the revenue needed for program receipts.
- **Fish and Wildlife protection cut.** Failure to fund the Year 3 labor contract will result in the loss of seven entry level seasonal Fish and Wildlife Aides in Ketchikan, Juneau, Klawock, Petersburg, Sitka, Hoonah and Haines. These losses will greatly reduce efficiency, productivity and visibility of more highly trained troopers who will be required to carry out the aides' work thus reducing time available for boat patrols of many vulnerable sport and commercial fisheries.

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect Southeast

IN SOUTHEAST: SENATE BUDGET CUT IMPACTS

For full impacts of cuts, see <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/omb/03OMB/Impact/ImpactHome.html>

- **School fire prevention worsened.** The failure to fund the Year 3 labor contracts will require the Division of Fire Prevention to decrease the building inspection frequency of schools and assembly buildings to every two years.
- **Layoffs in Public Safety.** Reductions in funding for the basic support functions will require cutting up to four positions in Juneau.
- **Marine Highway System.** The Senate's operating budget cuts \$6,649,200 from the Governor's request. As a result, service will be reduced by 67 operating weeks and two vessels will be surplus. The M/V Columbia will remain in lay-up for an additional seven weeks. This will affect the Bellingham to Alaska mainline service. Use of the M/V Malaspina in north Lynn Canal shuttle service will cease. The vessel overhaul will be cancelled and the vessel will remain in lay-up status until a buyer is found. Approximately 78 positions will be eliminated. The M/V Aurora will replace the M/V Barlett in Prince William Sound beginning May 1, 2003, discontinuing M/V Aurora service in southeast Alaska. The smaller communities will have no service in October 2002 when the LeConte is in lay-up status. Approximately 48 permanent Ketchikan-based crew positions will be eliminated. M/V Taku winter service will be eliminated. Southeast communities from Prince Rupert to Skagway will have a 50% reduction in service between November 1, 2002 and June 1, 2003. A 10% surcharge for passenger/cabin fares and 5% surcharge for vehicle fares will be implemented. Other on-board price increases will be implemented.
- **Fish and Wildlife protection cut.** Failure to fund fuel cost increases will impact the ability of troopers to perform field activities and will require sea patrols of the larger enforcement vessel located in Southeast Alaska to be reduced. This will affect sport and commercial fisheries.
- **Child protection.** The highly successful Adoption Placement Program will lose 1 social worker and 3 attorneys statewide.
- **Alcohol and drug abuse program reduced.** Drastically reduced funding to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs would cut treatment throughout the state.
- **Pioneers' Homes.** The Pioneers' Homes are currently operating with approximately 90 beds empty because staffing is insufficient to provide the 24-hour care that the people on the waiting list need. All of the Homes have waiting lists of people seeking immediate admission. To maintain safe staffing-to-resident ratios in all six Pioneers' Homes, 10 more beds statewide will remain empty.
- **Road maintenance cut back.** Maintenance of selected highways will have to significantly reduced. There will be significantly reduced maintenance on the Juneau Glacier Highway Mile 26 to end of road, Hoonah airport road, and the

How the Legislative Majority's Budget Cuts Will Affect Southeast

Skagway-Dyea Road. Winter snow removal and year round maintenance will be discontinued on category III roads including: Petersburg- Crystal Lake Road, Falls Creek Road, Old Mitkof Highway, Papkes Landing, and Scow Bay Loop Road; Ketchikan- Cemetery Road, Cranberry Road, D-2 Loop, Knudson Cove, Knudson Spur, D-1 Loop, North Pt. Higgins, North Pt. Higgins Spur, Old South Tongass, Pond Reef Ext., Pond Reef Circle, Pond Reef Road, Potter Road, Power House, Roosevelt Spur, Shoreline Drive, South Pt. Higgins, South Pt. Higgins Spur, Sunset Drive, Totem Bite, Whipple Creek, White Spur Road, Wood Road. Gustavus- Airport Road, Harbor Road; Yakutat- Bayview Road, Lost River, Monti Bay; Haines- Lutak Road, Mud Bay Road, Allen Road, Comstock Road, Beach Road, Front Street, Lutak Spur, Menaker Road, Mosquito Lake Road, Piedad Road, Sawmill Creek Road and Small Tract Road; Sitka- Eagle Way; Skagway- Sanitorium Road; Juneau- Lemon Creek Spur, Auk Nu, Dotson's Landing, Montana Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Otter Way, Pt. Stevens Road and Skater's Cabin; Kake- City Dock Road, Boat Harbor Road.